



## The Kickapoo Insect Survey

By Mike Kelley, Air Quality Coordinator

During the past month, some of you may have noticed strange blue lights glowing brightly at a variety of places across the reservation. Those lights were black light traps, made to capture different types of insects that are active during night time hours. This is not cause for alarm. This is just one component of the first ever insect survey on the Kickapoo reservation.



Why do an insect survey? Even though we often ignore them or even carelessly step on them, insects are an important part of our eco-system. They are closely related to plant communities and make up the primary food-stuffs of many animals that live in our world. What insects we find, and how many we find, can be used as an indicator of how healthy an environment is.

By sampling in late summer and again in early spring, we can gain a better understanding of a variety of factors. Indicator insects may be used to judge the impact and toxicity of any chemical spills or other ecological contaminations that may occur. Any pollution that may affect the richness and diversity of insect life can have an effect that ripples up the food chain. Anything, plant or animal, which rely on insects may also fail to thrive. Imagine what would happen to many of our fruit trees or flowers if our population of honey bees was to collapse. The bottom line is this: if we don't know what species we have living on the reservation, we don't know how, if at all, we can protect them.

## Newest Addition to the Team:

### Crystal Wabnum

With the recent hire of Crystal Wabnum as Administrative Assistant for the Environmental Office, our team is now 6 members and growing. Crystal, an enrolled member of the tribe, was born to Wendy Samqua and raised in Topeka by Kathy and Ralph Wabnum. She comes to us with a wealth of experience working with tribal non-profits and social justice organizations, most recently serving as an environmental justice organizer in Portland, Oregon. "It's a privilege to work for my tribe. The cold of the winter may get to my bones, but it's worth being close to my family and elders."





**KICKAPOO  
ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE**

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*Working Together for a Better  
Community!*

**We're on the Web!**

**<http://ktik-nsn.gov>**

## ***Save the Date! October 25th***

### **Low-Cost Weatherization Information**

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The Kickapoo Environmental Office is staffing a booth in the KNS cafeteria the evening of parent teacher conferences. If you're interested in learning how to weatherize your home this winter to save you money and energy, stop by our table anytime between 4pm—7pm.

## **Community Clean Up Week: October 15th—19th, 2012**

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The Kickapoo Environmental Office is organizing a Community Clean Up October 15-19, 2012. Environmental staff will pick-up items such as appliances, furniture, scrap metal, lumber or items too large for regular trash services. Workers will NOT accept any hazardous waste including oil, unused lead paint, anti-freeze or chemicals at this time. If possible, items should be placed close to the road or curb for pick up. Help will be available for collecting large or heavy items. If you need assistance, please call Luke Terry at the Kickapoo Environmental Office at 486-2601 Ext. 1. Here's the schedule:

**Monday, October 15th:** Sites 5, 6, 7 & Surrounding Residents

**Tuesday, October 16th:** Village 1 & 2, and Site 8

**Wednesday, October 17th:** Sites 1 & 2 & Surrounding Residents

**Thursday, October 18th:** Village 3 & 4, and K-20 Residents

**Friday, October 19th:** Called in missed pick-ups on reservation,  
Government Buildings, Roads Department, Farm, etc.



**If you have questions or need to make special arrangements,  
please call Luke Terry at the Kickapoo Environmental Office at 486-2601 Ext. 1.**

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